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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its forty-fifth session the General Assembly adopted resolution 45/80 of 12 December 1990, entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security". In that resolution the General Assembly, inter alia, invited Member States to submit their views on the question and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the basis of the replies received.

2. Pursuant to the request of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale on 14 June 1991 to the Governments of Member States inviting them to submit their views in accordance with paragraph 15 of the resolution.

3. As at 16 October 1991, two replies had been received, from Cuba and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Any further replies will be issued as addenda to the present report.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

CUBA

[Original: Spanish]

[7 August 1991]

1. The Government of the Republic of Cuba considers that the Declaration remains fully in effect and that compliance with it is imperative in the present circumstances.

2. Cuba has always maintained a policy of respect for and observance of the principles of the United Nations as set out in its Charter and is aware that, to be viable, international relations in the world of today must be based on the strictest adherence to the rules of international law and on respect for principles such as non-use of force or the threat of force in international relations. These principles are of fundamental importance in maintaining international peace and security. They carry with them an ineluctable corollary: the peaceful settlement of disputes between States.

3. Cuba reiterates its unconditional support for the principle of State sovereignty and holds firmly that each people must have the right freely to decide its destiny, without interference or intervention in its internal affairs.

4. We recognize that the peace-keeping operations undertaken by the United Nations may be effective, as long as they meet certain fundamental requirements, such as the principle of their voluntary acceptance by the States affected.

5. Such operations must also have a clear and precise mandate and must last no longer than is necessary to fulfil that mandate.

6. The Government of Cuba has expressed its willingness to participate in such operations in future.

7. The Permanent Representative of Cuba reiterates his Government's conviction that, if the United Nations is to carry out its mandate thoroughly, it must be able to count on States' political will as manifested in their respect for and full compliance with the provisions of the Charter and all of their obligations under international law.

8. This brings the Permanent Representative to the question of the authority and effectiveness of the Security Council, to which Cuba, since its election as a non-permanent member, has devoted enormous efforts aimed among other things at the democratization of the Council. That being so, he reaffirms what has often been stated in the past regarding the present functioning of the Council and its responsibility under the Charter to ensure that international peace and security are maintained.

9. In view of the current international situation, this theme is among those receiving the most attention from the international community, since it is becoming necessary for the Council to be able to do its work in a truly democratic context in which all of its members' responsibility can be expressed on an equal footing, no longer limited by forms and procedures that can be traced back to the historical circumstances that arose after the Second World War. The subsequent evolution of the international political situation, and in particular the changes in the United Nations, have made those procedures an anachronism; a case in point is the veto power, which in practice leaves the responsibility for decisions, on the maintenance of international peace and security, for instance, in the hands of a third of the members of the Council, even though such matters are of concern not only to the rest of the Council members but also to all Member States.

10. In the opinion of the Government of the Republic of Cuba, the reaffirmation of the principles governing international security is the sine qua non for keeping the world safe from a nuclear holocaust; therefore, the nuclear Powers and other militarily important States should formally commit themselves to respecting and helping to fulfil all agreements and measures adopted within the system, so as to guarantee that the intended goals will be achieved. The following are some of the disarmament, arms control and arms-limitation measures that could be considered:

(a) The establishment of zones free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

(b) The establishment of previously agreed limits on the acquisition, possession and production of certain types of eminently offensive weapons, which should be identified in such a way that the security of all States, without distinction, is guaranteed.

(c) The conclusion of agreements on the elimination of all foreign military bases and the withdrawal of all foreign troops from the territory of other States.

(d) The conclusion of agreements on limitation of other types of weaponry and of armed forces, in such a way that both shall be kept to the lowest level consistent with the security of the parties and no State shall be in a position to launch a large-scale offensive action or surprise attack against other States.

(e) The conclusion of agreements to prevent the carrying out of any military activities that would harm the environment.

11. The following are some of the confidence-building measures that could be considered:

(a) The adoption of defensive military doctrines by all States and the structuring of their armed forces in accordance with that doctrine.

(b) Advance notice of the military manoeuvres to be carried out in any country and a limit on the yearly number of such manoeuvres and on the number of troops and the quantity of weapons to be employed therein.

(c) A ban on the participation of foreign troops in such manoeuvres.

(d) The conclusion of agreements to encourage economic, scientific and technical cooperation and the development of cooperation in other areas of special interest to the parties.

(e) The conclusion of agreements on the peaceful settlement of all tensions and conflicts through negotiations between the parties.

(f) The conclusion of agreements prohibiting all acts of aggression, whether economic, political or military, causing tension and conflict between States.

(g) The dismantling of military blocs and alliances.

12. The verification system to be used to guarantee fulfilment of the agreements concluded in connection with the collective security system must be based on the following elements:

(a) It must be suited to the individual characteristics of each agreement concluded.

(b) It must not contain any form of discrimination or interfere unduly with the internal agreements of States.

(c) It must include all the fundamental elements of the agreements concluded.

13. The collective security system must include an effective sanctions mechanism to discourage either infringement of the agreements or any departure from the objectives and principles of the system.

14. On the other hand, there must be guarantees that no country or group of countries can use the sanctions mechanism to compel another State or group of States to accept principles, standards, judgements or recommendations that have not been adopted by all Member States and which, moreover, do not take into account the specific interests of the State or group of States in question.

15. The collective security system must guarantee the individual security of all States and, at the same time, these States must have sufficient defensive capacity to resist any intervention or aggression.

16. The crisis now being faced by developing countries has a direct impact on world stability. In particular, the crushing weight of their foreign debt, which is now in excess of $1,341,000 million is impeding the whole economic activity of those countries, is pushing them towards bankruptcy and may lead to internal social upheavals with unpredictable consequences, especially in those cases where implementation of the so-called adjustment measures recommended by the International Monetary Fund has been accepted, for those measures, by aggravating the massive poverty of the people of the underdeveloped countries, make their plight even more precarious.

17. Consequently, it is crucial to find a just and equitable solution to the economic problems now facing the South, and more especially those relating to foreign debt and the service of the debt, if international peace and security is to be strengthened, for without peace there will be no development and without development there will be no peace.

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

[Original: Russian]

[5 August 1991]

1. The Soviet Union regards the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security as an important instrument whose provisions are designed to assist the formation of a new world order based on the principles of the freedom of choice, the balance of global, regional and national interests, democracy and humanism. This Declaration is acquiring particular importance in the changing world situation, which has necessitated multifaceted approaches to the maintenance of international peace and the security of all States.

2. Today, on the threshold of a new century, the international community has turned its back on the cold war and entered a peaceful period in its development. Major advances have been made over a short historical period -

in the area of disarmament, in the European process and in the settlement of a number of regional crises. The threat of world-wide nuclear war has effectively been averted. The iron curtain has disappeared. Germany has been united, a turning point in the history of Europe. International security and cooperation are acquiring a fundamentally new structure, based on the United Nations Charter and on General Assembly resolution 44/21, adopted by consensus, which outlines the multilateral foundations of the new world order.

3. The deep transformations under way in the world lead us to the conclusion that the reforms taking place in the Soviet Union and our country s commitment to the new thinking in foreign policy have provided a powerful stimulus for reciprocal efforts by all sides. The commonwealth of nations has embarked upon an unprecedented political dialogue, which has already withstood such severe tests as the war in the Persian Gulf.

4. The development and strengthening of the positive processes under way in the world are, to a great extent, attributable to the increasingly crucial part played by the United Nations in laying the multilateral foundations of the new world order. In this context, the USSR shares the view, set out in the political communiqué issued by the Group of Seven at its London meeting, that the United Nations should have a central role in achieving international security.

5. The process of arms elimination, particularly with regard to nuclear weapons, is of decisive importance for the attainment of greater stability in the area of military policy. The signing in Moscow of the Soviet-American Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty marked a truly historic breakthrough in the pursuit of this goal. With this act yet another step forward, unquestionably the greatest to date, was made towards the demilitarization of international politics and the irreversible renunciation of confrontation in favour of cooperation and trust.

6. In a world where States are making ever-increasing efforts to eliminate stocks of lethal weapons, it is essential that the United Nations should actively promote a constant and universal process of genuine disarmament, and encourage the involvement of bilateral and multilateral efforts to this end.

7. The Soviet Union is convinced that the creation of sound structures of world security is inseparably linked to the creation of a common European home on the principles proclaimed in the Charter of Paris for a New Europe. In this context we do not regard Europe, in its full geographical extent from the Atlantic to the Urals, as a closed system. It is important to develop and advance the processes which have already been set in motion by integration in Europe, in the context of the world's general movement towards a new interdependence and oneness. Primary significance attaches here to the interface between common European cooperation and the organs of the United Nations system.

8. It is vital in present-day political life that the fullest possible use should be made of the peace-making potential of the United Nations in settling existing conflicts and preventing the emergence of new ones. In this process

attention should be given to the formulation and legal codification of machinery for resisting and putting a stop to aggression on the basis of the Charter and improving the practical conduct of United Nations peace-keeping operations, placing them on a sound political, legal and financial foundation.

9. The Soviet Union is convinced that the most reliable and sensible way of dealing with conflict situations is through open dialogue and collective efforts. It appeals to all sides engaged in conflict, in whatever regions of the world, to face each other and to accept that one side's security cannot and shall not be achieved at the cost of another's.

10. The normalization of the situation in the Persian Gulf region, a process in which the United Nations played an active part, can stimulate efforts to resolve other serious problems in the Middle East, primarily the Arab-Israeli conflict. A constructive exchange of views on the problems of the Middle East would help consolidate the tangible advances already made towards the holding of an international conference on the Middle East, and would bring closer the goals of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973).

11. The experience of Namibia and Nicaragua and the activation of United Nations mechanisms to deal with the problem of Western Sahara demonstrate that use of the potential of the Organization is the only way of achieving a balance of interests for all sides and of defusing highly volatile regional disputes.

12. The USSR calls for an end, at the earliest possible opportunity, to the military hostilities in Afghanistan, in support of the Secretary-General's plan aimed at drawing all groups of the population into an intra-Afghan dialogue and at setting up a broad-based Government by carrying out free elections under United Nations supervision.

13. Progress towards an all-embracing political settlement in Cambodia depends on the maintenance of broad mutual understanding on the basic principles for the settlement of this question through a cease-fire, the opening of a constructive, intra-Khmer dialogue and the attainment by the Cambodians of their sovereign right, on the basis of a package of framework documents, to self-determination through free elections.

14. The international community is urged to use political means to help bring about the final dismantling of apartheid in South Africa and the creation of a democratic, non-racial State.

15. A comprehensive, multichannelled interface between the United Nations peace-making efforts and the work of regional organizations could assist in the search for a solution to these and many other problems, and would substantially strengthen the structures of international security.

16. The Soviet Union sets great store by the strengthening of the preventive functions of the United Nations and the expansion of its potential in the gathering, processing and analysis of current information on international

disputes and conflicts. This process would be advanced by the consensus adoption at the coming session of a declaration on fact-finding by the United Nations in the field of the maintenance of international peace and security, the draft of which has been prepared by the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization. The adoption of the declaration would help enhance the effectiveness of the Security Council, the General Assembly, the International Court of Justice and the peace-making efforts of the Secretary-General, and would be an important step towards the creation of an atmosphere of predictability, trust and stability in the world.

17. The secure world of the future is inseparably linked to the creation of a new structure of international economic relations, based on the principles of justice and equality, the conversion of military production and the expansion of multilateral cooperation to address problems of external indebtedness and to combat hunger, poverty, disease and natural disasters.

18. The world-wide problem posed by environmental protection, which has acquired particular gravity after the war in the Persian Gulf, also necessitates a coordinated international approach and the development of effective technical and technological means of rescuing the planet from an environmental cataclysm.

19. The renunciation of force and tolerance of social diversity are inalienable elements of a stable and civilized international order. The Soviet Union consistently advocates the continued development of dialogue on social and humanitarian issues, the affirmation of universal notions of human rights and the implementation of all the applicable standards established in the International Covenants on Human Rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other universally accepted international instruments.

20. The universal nature of the new world order currently taking shape and the multiplicity of the related tasks necessitate a radical improvement in the operation of the machinery for harmonizing the efforts of countries and regions, which is represented by the United Nations. At the forthcoming forty-sixth session of the General Assembly, the Soviet Union is prepared to conduct a concrete and constructive dialogue with all States, aimed at finding practical ways of determining the main political, legal, economic, humanitarian, environmental and other parameters of a future world order.